



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
Anne S. Hill
John Hammargren
Carl Moore

Guest

Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor-Controller
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children & Family Services
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department
Commander Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department
Michael Varela, Probation Department

Staff

Lee Millen
Nyla Jefferson

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chairperson Montaña welcomed everyone in attendance and a self-introduction followed.

Department of Children and Family Services

Elizabeth Howard, Manager, Group Home Foster Family Agency, reported that there have been four (4) referrals for general neglect, three (3) are pending and one (1) evaluated out. On physical abuse reports three (3) were evaluated out, three (3) are pending and one (1) was unfounded. There were three (3) sexual abuse referrals with three (3) evaluated out and three (3) are pending. Runaway data is unavailable at this time. In response to Commissioner Hammargren, Ms. Howard reported that there are no open contracts to establish new group homes at this time. The open contract period may begin this summer for agencies that are currently contracted with DCFS; the guidelines to open a group home are not fully confirmed. Also, The Way Inn/Salvation Army group home and shelter are closed.

Ms. Howard's office forwarded a complete listing of Los Angeles County Group Homes to the Commission.

Internal Services Department

Michael Henderson, Division Manager, ISD Maintenance & Operation, reported that the Department's calls for service each month have a 90% completion rate. The life and safety calls success rate is 100%. Some of the routine maintenance calls that require completion within three (3) days are being addressed.

Probation Department

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, Director of Placement Quality Assurance, reported that there were 92 runaway youths in December. The reporting delay is to determine the outcome: whether they returned, how long they were gone, why they left, etc. Runaways were from various group homes including the Rights of Passage located in Nevada; a staff person travels monthly to Nevada to ensure quality assurance. Florence Crittenden which houses teen mothers and their babies recently had multiple issues/complaints as a result of the new Program Manager implementing a behavior modification program. Also, there were three child abuse allegations that were deemed unfounded, and there is a case under investigation regarding a youth with two black eyes which may be considered neglect/unsupervised.

Kin-Gap provides funding to the relative housing the youth up to the age of 18 after the probation case closes. If pending legislation is approved payment would continue to 21 years of age. There are two youth in the program.

Michael Varela, Probation Department, will provide an updated address list of local juvenile institutions for Commission inspections. Also, the Probation Commission Report and State Report on the respective juvenile institutions will be made available. Further, the only

camp that may be affected by recent rain storms is Camp Holton that is closed and being utilized by the Fire Department.

Mr. Varela announced that Kevin Woods is the new Director of the Dorothy Kirby Center. He will be reassigned to a new position. The Commission thanked Mr. Varela for his contributions and expressed their desire for him to continue to attend and report at the Commission Business meetings.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD, distributed the Inmate Assaults on Staff Report indicating the numbers have decreased, and the 2008-09 Grand Jury Report on Century Regional Detention Facility conducted on December 18, 2009. Also, she reported that a miscommunication occurred concerning the Commission's inspection at CRDF, in that she was advised that the Captain and the operational staff were on-site. Commissioner Moore alluded to an Assaults Report received from CRDF that does not reflect data provided by Commander Ruiz. Commander Ruiz agreed to address the discrepancy. Further, the El Monte Courthouse has a committee chaired by Commander Lindsey to look at resolving the internal communication problem relating to patrol radios; repeaters are being considered but cost is the deterrent. Patrol units are being provided new state-of-the-art MDTs that are compatible with the LAPD and other sister agencies. In addition, a Committee of all jail stations meets periodically to share information.

Auditor Controller's Department

Cassandra Youngblood, Foster Youth Ombudsman, Auditor Controller, reported that she receives approximately 25 referrals through calls, e-mail or correspondence. Referrals are primarily focused on personal rights issues at group homes or on inadequate clothing concerning children from the Probation Department. Quite a few calls are from Penny Lane regarding a facility search for drugs and stolen items. Also, she referred the Phoenix House and Children are Our Future to the Community Care Licensing Department for investigation. Recently, she assisted a young lady old enough to emancipate who had not received any emancipation support. Further, referrals are increasing because many children traditionally spend the holidays with relatives.

Mental Health Department

No representative in attendance.

Community Care Licensing

No representative in attendance.

Chair Montaña shared a LA Times Editorial regarding the death of about a dozen children. She thanked everyone for their presentation.

APPROVAL OF FEBRARY 11, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Vice Chairperson Bacio and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2010 were approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- West Angeles Church of God in Christ is hosting the annual Law Enforcement, Firefighter and Military Appreciation Day on March 14, 2010. RSVP no later than March 9, 2010.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1, 628.93.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS FROM FEBRUARY 12, 2010 TO FEBRUARY 16, 2010

Marina Sheriff's Station – Commissioners Hall and Moore The facility was visited on February 12, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

Hillside Home for Children – 25, #1 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill The facility was visited on February 12, 2010. There was no one home.

Dubnoff Center – 15, #4 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill The facility was visited on February 16, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** The home needs a general cleaning, window shades replaced in first bedroom, replace dresser (already ordered) and update Needs and Services reports. The Needs and Services report and clothing allowance information will be faxed in.

San Gabriel Children's Center – 42, #1 – Chairperson Montaña and Vice Chairperson Bacio The facility was visited on February 16, 2010 and was found to be in satisfactory condition.

Touch of Life Foundation – 45, #1 – Commissioners Hall, Hammargren and Moore The facility was visited on February 16, 2010. There was no one home.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Moore requested that staff prepare a letter for the Chairs signature to Sheriff Baca recommending that all stations/courthouses emulate the Pico Rivera Station jail improvements, and that the current jailer's innovations are to be highly commended.

Commissioner Hall is not available to participate in the March 2, 2010 group inspection.

Commissioner Moore may not attend next Wednesday's meeting due to minor knee surgery.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.